



MINUTES

SPECIAL

CITY COUNCIL

MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2005

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 6:10 p.m. at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR ADDLEMAN.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans*, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

*COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS arrived at 6:13 p.m.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Doug Prichard, City Manager

Stephen Pfahler, Assistant City Attorney

Sam Wise, Assistant City Manager

David Wahba, Planning Director

INTRODUCTIONS

MAYOR ADDLEMAN requested the meeting participants introduce themselves to the audience.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED PUBLIC UTILITY PROJECTS ON PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH

Terry Tamble, District Manager, California Water Service, provided an extensive overview of their master plan for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Water District which included: 1) Developing water supply requirements; 2) The need for 11 million gallons of additional storage; 3) Additional pipelines; and 4) Replacement of pipelines. He noted that the West Basin Municipal Water District is coordinating their recycling project with Cal Water. Additionally, he stated that he has met with the subcommittee consisting of MAYOR PRO TEM ZUCKERMAN, COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS, City Manager Prichard and Assistant City Manager Wise over the last two years.

Carmelo Sorce, Engineering Representative, California Water Service, provided a detailed presentation of all proposed projects primarily focusing on the D-500 system on the west side of the Peninsula as well as the reservoir at the corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and Silver Spur Road. He noted that the D-500 system proposes replacement of a pipeline from Palos Verdes Drive North to Via Campesina which would increase the reliability and access for future methods thereby reducing liability as the existing pipeline would be removed from nearby homes.

Marc Serna, West Basin Municipal Water District, provided a brief description of their recycled water project noting that this will primarily be used for irrigation purposes. He noted that this is proposed to extend from Hawthorne Blvd. to Palos Verdes Drive North.

Scott Gobble, General Manager, Southern California Edison, noted that Rule 20A funds have been

utilized for many of these types of projects and that their particular project involves undergrounding utility poles along Palos Verdes Drive North. He noted that they are awaiting COUNCIL direction to proceed.

Peter Tran, Project Manager, Southern California Edison, noted that this project is strictly for aesthetic purposes. He noted their desire to provide a plan that would have the least impact on residents as well as reduce the number of crossings through private properties. He then estimated construction to last approximately four to six months.

Mr. Gobble noted that this project would be primarily in the bike path on the north side of the street. He indicated that other entities, such as telephone companies, cable and cell sites will also be involved in this project.

MAYOR ADDLEMAN inquired as to how many street crossings would be required. Mr. Gobble noted that approximately 22, but could be lower. He requested the COUNCIL direct staff to work with the cell companies and decide which locations would be acceptable.

Keith Campbell, Boyle Engineering, California Water Service, discussed alignment alternatives and provided a more detailed concept of what the pipelines will look like. He noted that an alternative study was undertaken to address traffic impacts from street closures on Palos Verdes Drive North, but will keep access open for local and/or emergency vehicles. He then noted that incentives could be provided to the contractor to extend their hours in order to complete the work sooner.

MAYOR ADDLEMAN inquired as to how traffic will be handled on Palos Verdes Drive North as any closure would severely impact Dapplegray School.

Mr. Campbell noted that "construction windows" would be provided to avoid peak time traffic and that access would be available at all times. Additionally, he stated that a series of workshops will be conducted addressing the public's concerns.

MAYOR ADDLEMAN inquired as to who will be funding these projects. Mr. Tamble indicated that Cal Water and West Basin will bear the costs through increased water rates.

COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL inquired if there will be any restrictions to pedestrian access as she noted her concern for safety when a parent is walking their child to school. Mr. Campbell noted that they will make it a point to provide safe access by possibly utilizing concrete barriers.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZUCKERMAN noted that other schools throughout the Peninsula will be affected by these projects as well as major impacts from total street closures. He noted his concern with external costs that may not have been calculated as yet stating that it is the COUNCIL'S responsibility to be accountable to the residents.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZUCKERMAN inquired if the Palos Verdes Transit Authority was consulted on these projects as this would cause a significant impact on the only community transportation system on the Peninsula and must be addressed if Palos Verdes Drive North is still being considered as an alternative. He then noted that he would be more inclined to consider a less obtrusive alternative.

Mr. Campbell stated that the COUNCIL will decide on the option they prefer.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZUCKERMAN inquired as to how many leaks have occurred over the last five years. Mr. Tamble noted at least four, but homes near the easements could be cause for concern.

MAYOR PRO TEM ZUCKERMAN inquired into the West Basin recycled water project. Mr. Serna noted that, while the majority of users are on the Peninsula, the project is mainly driven by two golf courses and Green Hills Memorial Park.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN noted that he has not heard any alternate presentations and was not convinced as to the necessity of these projects as the City wants what is best for the residents. Additionally, he reiterated that not much emphasis has been placed on the schools and strongly stated that Palos Verdes Drive North should be considered as a last resort.

Mr. Tamble noted that this expense will affect their rates, but is concerned about liability in the event of a catastrophe.

In regards to the proposed street closures, COUNCILWOMAN MITCHELL noted that enforcement of "local" traffic would be problematic.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS noted that when one major intersection is closed on the Peninsula, it affects the entire South Bay as it will create confusion.

Angela Houle, strongly noted her concern with how this project will impact the Peninsula. MAYOR ADDLEMAN noted that an EIR will more than likely be required.

Nick Green, Daily Breeze, inquired as to the proposed rate increase from Cal Water. It was noted that this information will be provided later.

Mr. Tamble stated that the project cost for the D-500 system at Crenshaw Boulevard and proposed reservoir is estimated at \$20 million which translates to approximately \$135 annually per customer.

Bridget Carman, commented that Palos Verdes Drive North creates a traffic bottleneck and inquired if the engineers have review prior traffic studies. She then inquired if a bus system was considered to assist in circumventing the traffic.

Steve Shinn, responded to an audience member regarding residents encroaching on Cal Water's easements. Mr. Tamble noted that they will not ask residents to remove what they already have over the easements.

City Manager Prichard recommended the following steps be taken: 1) Undertake an initial study; 2) Provide appropriate notice to the public regarding the environmental assessment of these projects; 3) Cal Water provide workshops addressing the public's concerns; and 4) Conduct a scoping session prior to creating an environmental impact work program.

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to move forward with the aforementioned recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Approved,

Hope J. Nolan Douglas R. Prichard
Deputy City Clerk City Clerk

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